THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes. Approximately 200 Indians are presently in British jails.

(b) Our Mission/Posts in Britain provide all possible assistance to the Indian nationals imprisoned in jails ensuring their welfare and proper living conditions as well as facilitating speedy repartriation after confirmation of their identity.

Indo-Israel Agreements

263. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Israel visited India recently and held discussion on several important issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agreements signed with Israel;

(d) the extent to which Government would be benefited by such agreements;

(e) whether the visit was on the invitation extended to him by the Government; and

(f) if so, the date of the invitation extended.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Prime Minister of Israel paid a State visit to India on September 8-10, 2003. During the visit, the two sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

(c) The following six bilateral documents were signed during the visit:

1. Agreemnt on Cooperation in the field of Protection of the Environment.
2. Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Health and Medicine.
3. Agreement on Cooperation in combating illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

4. Agreement on Waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports.

5. Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education.

6. Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Culture.

(d) These agreements would provide a framework for consolidation of bilateral cooperation in the specified sector.

(e) and (f) Yes. Prime Minister Sharon visited India in response to an invitation extended by Hon'ble Prime Minister on February 4, 2003.

Sale of Indian property in Karachi by Pak authority

264. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a posh property belonging to Indian High Commission in Karachi has been fraudulently disposed off without the knowledge of Indian High Commission;

(b) whether the Government of Pakistan has ordered a probe into this illegal sale on a complaint lodged by India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the disputed property has been acquired by a Pakistani sugar baron for Rs. 40.00 million; and

(d) the details of the probe conducted by Pak law enforcement agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of India property at 63 Clifton, Karachi, was illegally encroached upon, and the trespasser had reportedly cut down trees and initiated some works on the premises.

The matter of encroachment was immediately taken up with the Government of Pakistan through Pakistan Foreign Office in Islamabad on October 8, 2003 and Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on October 8 and 13, 2003. A FIR on criminal trespass was also registered in Karachi. Pakistan Government had informed on October 18, 2003 that the encroachment of the property had